

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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R 281656Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9707
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 4290

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR XO XA CG XF SO ET CH BE
SUBJECT: CHINESE AND SOMALI ENVOYS URGE ACTIVE U.S. ROLE IN HORN OF
AFRICA

SUMMARY: CHINESE AND SOMALI AMBASSADORS IN BELGIUM COMMENT
ON SOVIET DESIGNS IN HORN OF AFRICA AND ADVOCATE U.S. ROLE
THERE TO COUNTER SOVIET INITIATIVE. END SUMMARY.

1. CHINESE (PRG) AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM, HUAN HSIAN, COMMENTED
TO AN EMBOFF AT A SOCIAL OCCASION APRIL 27 THAT, AS A RESULT
OF EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE, INCLUDING FROM PRC, THE
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"SOVIET-SPONSORED" INCURSION INTO SHABA WAS VIRTUALLY OVER
AND NO LONGER POSED A THREAT TO STABILITY IN CENTRAL AFRICA.
AMBASSADOR HUAN SAID PRC WAS MORE CONCERNED ABOUT SOVIET
DESIGNS ON THE HORN OF AFRICA, WHICH HAD WIDER STRATEGIC
IMPLICATIONS IN AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE INDIAN
OCEAN. HE SAID THE KEY TO COUNTERING SOVIET PENETRATION
IN THE AREA WAS SOMALIA AND AN EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO

"STABILIZE AND SUPPORT" THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT. HE SAID PRC WAS GIVING SOMALIA MORAL AND DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT, BUT COULD NOT DO MORE. REMARKING THAT EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA WERE DOING WHAT THEY COULD, HUAN SAID U.S. HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY A DECISIVE ROLE AND SHOULD DO SO.

2. IN ANOTHER CONVERSATION SOMALI DCM BROUGHT UP APRIL 18 TIME MAGAZINE ITEM RE PRESIDENT CARTER'S PERSONAL INTEREST IN IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA. HE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WAS WORRIED ABOUT SOVIET MOVES IN ETHIOPIA AND "WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO." SOMALI AMBASSADOR, JOINING THE CONVERSATION, SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WANTED TO DISCUSS IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. EMBOFF SAID HE ASSUMED SOMALI GOVERNMENT HAD MADE THE POINT IN WASHINGTON AND MOGADISCIO. AMBASSADOR SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO BE MADE CLEARLY AGAIN IN ANOTHER VENUE AND ASKED THAT IT BE TRANSMITTED TO WASHINGTON. IN YET ANOTHER CONVERSATION SOMALI AMBASSADOR COMMENTED THAT IT WAS "PREMATURE" TO SAY THAT SOMALIA AUTOMATICALLY WOULD TURN TO THE WEST AS ETHIOPIA MOVED INTO THE SOVIET ORBIT. HE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD FIRST HAVE TO DISCUSS WITH THE U.S. THE NATURE OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP AND LISTEN TO WHAT USG HAD TO PROPOSE.

3. COMMENT. AMBASSADOR HUAN IS FAST MAKING A REPUTATION HERE AS THE FREEE-EST-WHEELING DIPLOMAT IN PRC HISTORY, BUT HE IS A VETERAN OF THE LONG MARCH AND A SENIOR PRG OFFICIAL WHO SPEAKS WITH AN AIR OF AUTHORITY. RENNER

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